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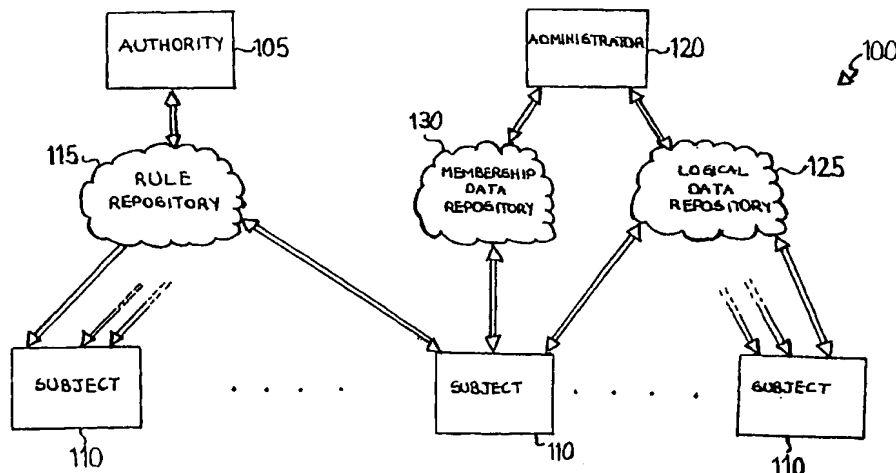
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: AN ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT METHOD AND SYSTEM WITH AUTOMATIC DEPENDENCY RESOLUTION



(57) Abstract: A resource management method (300) and a corresponding system are proposed. In the solution of the invention, an authority publishes (324) multiple rules, each one defining a desired target configuration for a category of subjects (without any information about their dependencies). Each subject retrieves (320-322, 326) the rules corresponding to its category in a random order. The rules are then applied (427-439) on the subject according to a trial-and-fail approach. Particularly, the application of any failed rule is continually repeated (427-448), until all the rules are successfully applied (463) or a deadlock condition is detected (451). In this way, any dependency is automatically resolved on the subject at run time. Moreover, as soon as all the rules have been successfully applied the compliance of the subject to the rules is verified (455-57) again; should the subject be not compliant to one or more rules any longer, an infinite loop condition is detected (466).

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	J. W. WOOTEN <JWOOTEN@SHOULDERCORP.COM>: "An N-tier Rule Based XML Architecture for a Contract Management System" XP002312565 Retrieved from the Internet: URL: http://www.shoulderscorp.com/success/ContractManagement4.pdf page 3, paragraph II - page 8, line 19	1-10
L	-& "Success stories" INTERNET DOCUMENT, 2 February 2002 (2002-02-02), XP002312566 Retrieved from the Internet: URL: http://web.archive.org/web/20020202035939/http://www.shoulderscorp.com/success/ Cited to establish a date of publication of the main document -/--	

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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X	VIRGINIA E. BARKER, DENNIS E. O'CONNOR: "EXPERT SYSTEMS FOR CONFIGURATION AT DIGITAL: XCON AND BEYOND" COMMUNICATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTING MACHINERY, ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTING MACHINERY. NEW YORK, US, vol. 32, no. 3, 1 March 1989 (1989-03-01), pages 298-318, XP000039123 ISSN: 0001-0782	7-10
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A	"SENDMAIL(8) FreeBSD System Manager's Manual SENDMAIL(8)" INTERNET DOCUMENT - FREEBSD HYPERTEXT MAN PAGES, 'Online! 2 August 1998 (1998-08-02), XP002312568 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://www.freebsd.org/cgi/man.cgi?que ry=sendmail&apropos=0&sektion=0&manpath=Fr eeBSD+4.0-RELEASE&format=html> page 2, line 18 - line 22 page 4, line 7 - line 9	2
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